



TIMEX/SINCLAIR/CAMBRIDGE - COMPUTER SOFTWARE & Hardware Developers' n/1 #1-1989(Feb.)

The publisher who also produces TS Bulletin for Timex-Sinclair users and Home Computer Orphan Survival N/L (for other low cost computers) as a hobby, has been delayed in the production of the first issue of TS Bulletin for 1989 by work on the draft of a book/booklet - "The Unofficial Master Guide to the Larken TS1000 Disk Drive System". This book will follow on the publication of the booklet on Assembly Language Programming of the TS1000 already available. All these are or will be available for \$10 each. A further booklet, "Famous Computers", made up largely of a collection of the famous computers and microprocessors columns from TS Bulletin is in the early stage of make-up. Another project, the writing of a semi-technical manual for the TS1000 which will use that computer and its architecture and systems software as an illustration of principles of computer function and design, is in the early planning stage. In spite of this work, intensified from December, 1988, the first 1989 copy of the HC Orphan Survival N/L #A-89, has been completed.

LOCAL MEETINGS AND OUT-OF-TOWN CORRESPONDENCE

The writer attended the January and February meetings of the Ottawa-Hull Timex-Sinclair User Group which have been held recently in members' homes rather than at the N.R.C. Building downtown. Discussions of the Commodore 64 and comparisons of its disk drive with the Larken drive for Timex-Sinclairs and talk about the TS2068 B.B.S. system that Larken Electronics is marketing were included in the rather informal sessions, held in basement computer rooms.

The writer has corresponded with SLIX, the San Francisco area information exchange and members of the Toronto User Group during the course of research and work on the above-mentioned Larken TS1000 Manual. George Chambers and Lou Champagne of the Toronto area have offered many useful suggestions about the style and points in the manual when shown the first draft. It is now looking like the book will be about 40 pages in length at first release and reach possible pre-release readiness state in about May with official release for November. It is amazing how much work there is to such a project which has about 15 to 20,000 words so far I'd guess.

QL News

The TS Bulletin is centered around general articles of a computer literacy sort as well as articles with a specific TS1000 reference (plus programs that will run on the TS2068/Spectrum and QL, if they are in pure BASIC). However, the QL is enjoying more popularity than ever and much support. Software emulators that allow it to run CP/M programs and MS DOS programs (with the addition of a disk drive and perhaps memory expansion) have become available (from Sharp's among other U.S./T/S dealers) and have appeared just as PC Ditto for the Atari ST and PC Soft for the Apple Mac allow the running of MS DOS on those 68000 microprocessor series based computers. There is more support than ever for the QL as far as magazines are concerned and there is even one coming out of Québec, written entirely in the French language, entitled QL DOC, a sample copy of which can be obtained for \$1.50 and a subscription for \$10 from Réal Gagnon, 8286 St-Hubert, Montréal, (Québec), Canada, H2P 1Z3. It is full of the latest news on new products from U.S. suppliers and with original programs and program fixes. There is news too in the QL press of the prices of English made disk drive systems, Miracle Systems' Trump and cheaper Ace i/f boards going up in price. And news of a QL emulator board for PC clones and a QL clone (the Thor, from Denmark) with its own QDOS operating system clone, ARGOS. So there is much to report on the QL front and that may make its way into future issues of TS Bulletin in some small form.

ZX-81/TS1000 SPEED-UPFAST - FAST MODEZX-81

Wilf Rigger has written a machine code routine which allows the TS1000 to do less display updating and thus more of other things and more quickly. By limiting the number of display lines, the speed at which programs run on the TS1000 can be greatly increased beyond the speed of execution in FAST mode even. This is covered in two articles in the Jan. and Feb. 1989 issues of the Vancouver TSUG n/1, ZX-Appeal including a m/c listing. Wilf also authored the Nova 1000 multi-tasking system for the TS1000/ZX-81.

Be sure to write for a new catalogue or price list before ordering from your mailorder T/S supplier as there is a consolidation underway and many items are on sale at reduced prices as some firms get ready to discontinue lines of stock or sell their T/S business and stock to rival T/S suppliers. The names involved are too numerous to mention although WMJ Data Systems, Sharp's, and RMG are among those continuing to do business as usual but with increased stock bought from other suppliers. John Mathewson continues to offer servicing and modification of TS2068 computers for Canadian customers unwilling to take a chance on the mail etc. and ship them to such service persons as the perennial Dan Elliot of Route 1, Box 117, Cabool, MO 65689, USA. QL repairs are available in Canada through Schennelly Stoughton, 191 William St. Nth, Lindsay, Ont. K9V 4B8 according to the Vancouver TSUG's newsletter of Feb., 1989. Larken Electronics continues to sell its products both through RMG in the USA. and from its own rural office at RR#2, Navan, Ont. Canada, K4B 1H9. A new B.B.S. program for \$25 it is said is available from Larken and it will handle both 300 and 1200 baud and work as a terminal or B.B.S. There are still many suppliers out there, new programs are being written for both the ZX-81/TS1000/TS1500 and TS2068/Spectrum computers and QL and Z-88 and Amstrad PC support is if anything (particularly with the latter two) stepping up rather than otherwise. Although the Z-88 is making its way as a laptop the old TS1000 is also small enough that when fitted into an attache case it can function as a portable and it is hoped that some articles on the TS1000 as a portable will be featured in future issues of the TS Bulletin.

(Don't Worry!)

SIR CLIVE'S NEW BABY *NEW*

T/S Goes Disk 

★ Warning: Don't hack, buy, make any commitments or modifications to your system based on information in this newsheet or any TS Bulletin newsletter without checking with a second qualified and knowledgeable source and thus verifying the information. Published by Bill Harmer, 97 Ruskin St, Ottawa, Ont., Canada K1Y 4B3 as a hobby. ENJOY!

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LETTER

Mar. 29, 89

To: Donald LAMBERT, CRAGIST N/L

Our group Ottawa-Hull TSNQ has a newsletter
but it only comes out rarely (once last year,
maybe a couple of issues, some years).

However I publish newsletters of my own on
an occasional basis ^{as a hobby} and am willing to exchange.
Bill Harner

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